



Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

NOTES FROM LONDON

EMC 2024

Have you registered yet for EMC 2024? Go to www.emc-2024.org to see our sessions list, keynote speakers, and to register. We will soon also have a complete programme to show you (check <https://emc-2024.org/programme/>).

Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Mineralogical Society
of the UK and Ireland

emc² 18–23 August 2024
4th european mineralogical
conference • Dublin, Ireland

<https://www.emc-2024.org>

- 30+ Sessions
- Field trips (3)
- Short courses (3) (16–18 Aug. 2024)
- Site visit to 'National Museum of Ireland Collections Resource Centre'
- Outreach lecture
- Ice-breaker reception and banquet
- Presentations + exhibition by industry representatives
- City-centre location in historic Dublin
- Combine with 'Mineralogy and Museums 10' (www.mm-10.org)
- Free remote registration for those in low- and middle-income countries
- Online registration opens 1 January 2024

Join us in Dublin where you will be assured of a warm welcome, great science, an excellent range of choices of sessions, fieldtrips and workshops. Our conference is fully hybrid and we welcome offers of presentations from colleagues who are unable to attend in person.

Convenors: David Chew and Emma Tomlinson (Trinity College Dublin);
Kevin Murphy and Russell Rajendra (Mineralogical Society)



Old Library, Trinity College Dublin.

MINERALOGY AND MUSEUMS 10

This year, the Mineralogical Society is helping to organize the Mineralogy and Museums 10 conference at Museum Wales, Cardiff. Registration is open at www.mm-10.org.

AMGUEDDFA
CYMRU

Mineralogical Society
of the UK and Ireland

Mineralogy and Museums 10
12-14 August 2024

Croeso i Gymru - Welcome to Wales
for the 10th Mineralogy and Museums conference
Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales, Cardiff

This meeting will provide exciting opportunities to explore the mineralogical and industrial heritage of Wales with plenty of opportunities for networking and sharing ideas.

The programme will focus on Key aspects of developments in mineralogy, and mineralogy and petrology collections along with their research, care and how to make them accessible to the widest range of users and relevant to society.

To make the meeting as accessible as possible the two-day program will include both in-person and remote talks, lightning talks and poster presentations.

Three exciting fieldtrips are on offer illustrating the mineral heritage of the region: 'Parys Mountain' (3-day trip), 'Forest of Dean' and 'Blaenavon and Big Pit' (day trips).

This meeting precedes the European Mineralogical Conference, in Dublin (18–23 August 2024; www.emc-2024.org). There will be a bonus site visit (free of charge) to the National Collections Centre in Dublin for those who attend both events.

There are reduced registration fees for students and retirees. Information on travel grants can be found on the web site.

Conference organisers:
Jana Horák, Tom Cotterell, Andrew Haycock,
Helen Kerbey, Mike Rumsey & Stuart Mills.
Staff support: Kevin Murphy & Russell Rajendra.

SMP

For further information see: <https://mm-10.org/>

SOCIETY MEMBER, ROGER HARDING, PASSES AWAY

Roger Harding died on January 26th at the age of 85. He completed a PhD at Oxford in the mid-1960s on the igneous intrusions of St. Kilda. He joined the NERC Isotope Geology Unit and in the early 1970s moved to the Petrology Unit in Exhibition Road. He worked on many projects and, by strange coincidence, became the leader of the geological mapping of St. Kilda by Petrology Unit Members. He developed an interest in gemmology under the expert guidance of Alan Jobbins and qualified as a gemmologist. When the Petrology Unit moved to Keyworth in 1985, he transferred to the Natural History Museum along with the Minerals Collection dealing with gemmological matters. After a short time, he moved to The Gemmological Association in Hatton Gardens where he was a tutor, examiner, and editor for the *Journal of Gemmology*. Roger served as Publications Manager for the Mineralogical Society during the early 1990s. On retirement, he moved to the West Country.



FIELD REPORT FROM BURSARY WINNER, LYDIA WHITTAKER

Alcedo Volcano Field Mission, 2023

School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Thanks to the Mineralogical Society postgraduate student bursary, The Geological Society Research Grants, and The Julian Boldy Bursary, Trinity College Dublin, I was able to participate in a field mission to Alcedo volcano in the Galapagos Islands, accompanied by a team of international researchers. The trip was led by Mike Stock of Trinity College Dublin (Ireland); accompanied by Dennis Geist, professor emeritus at the University of Idaho (USA) and a specialist in the geology of the Galapagos Islands; Marian Holness, a professor at Cambridge University (UK) and a specialist in the processes taking place in magmatic reservoirs; Benjamin Bernard, a member of the Escuela Politécnica Nacional (Ecuador) and specialist in eruptive dynamics; and Jorge Zambrano, a student at the Escuela Politécnica Nacional, researching the rhyolitic eruptions of Alcedo.



At the summit of Alcedo overlooking the caldera.

The purpose of the expedition was to collect samples and gain insights into the enigmatic rhyolitic eruptions that occurred on this volcano nearly 100,000 years ago. The presence of such high silica content in the Galapagos is exceedingly rare, as typical eruptions in this region produce basalt. Therefore, Alcedo represents a unique natural laboratory where petrological/geochemical techniques can be deployed to directly compare the magmatic processes preceding rhyolitic and basaltic eruptions in a single magmatic system. In the current circumstances, an explosive rhyolitic eruption poses a significant threat to local fauna,



Galapagos tortoises in their natural habitat, overlooking the caldera rim.



(LEFT TO RIGHT) Dennis, Mike, Marian, Ben, Jorge, and Lydia at the coastline ready for a day of fieldwork.

tourism, agriculture, fishing, and the resident giant tortoise population. However, the likelihood of such an eruption is very low. Alcedo is an active volcano, but its last eruption, which took place in 1993, involved Hawaiian-type eruptions characterized by basaltic lava flows.

The trip took place between August 28 and September 4, 2023 and consisted of one week of isolated camping on the volcano at the coastline and along the caldera rim. Fieldwork in the Galapagos is a challenge due to extreme temperatures, terrain, and topography; however, sample collection was a huge success collecting >60 samples of ash and lava, which are currently being analysed at Trinity College Dublin. Alongside the scientific research, the trip was an incredible experience as a postgraduate student. Spending a week immersed in the environment that is the focus of my research alongside internationally renowned experts in the field was an invaluable learning experience. I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from such inspirational scientists in what can only be described as one of the most stunning environments in the world.

This research is part of the project “What triggers Galapagos volcano eruptions? New objectives on Alcedo volcano” funded by Trinity College Dublin (PIEX-IG-23-01) and was conducted under a research permit from the Galapagos National Park (PC-67-23). Logistics were organized by the Charles Darwin Foundation. Immense thanks are extended to all those who enabled the success of this mission.

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY BURSARIES

As part of its objective to advance knowledge of the science of mineralogy and its applications, the Society awards bursaries to research postgraduate students. These bursaries are intended to allow students to develop, undertake, apply, and communicate research in any area of the mineralogical sciences (including crystallography, geochemistry, petrology, environmental science, and economic geology). By making these awards, the Society also seeks to encourage the development of postgraduate researchers into the next generation of researchers in mineralogy. The President and Council of the Society therefore request applications for bursary awards from students registered for a postgraduate research degree in the disciplines of mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, and geochemistry. Application deadlines and activity cutoff dates are announced at <https://www.minersoc.org/postgraduate-bursaries.html>.